

Alliance Group

Alliance Imager

Alliance Imager

Alliance Imager Professional

Alliance Imager Viewer

Getting Started Guide

Alliance Group

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About This Guide

This guide introduces *Alliance Imager*, explains what Imaging is and shows you how to get started by performing some common tasks.

In this Chapter

Purpose

Prerequisites

Related Information

Purpose

The Getting Started Guide provides general information about concepts, describes the features of Alliance*Imager* and shows you how to perform several imaging tasks.

Prerequisites

To use this product, you need to be familiar with the Microsoft Windows 98, 2000 or XP environment. If you are using a printer or scanner, you should also know how to connect and operate the device.

You will need to have the Imager database installed (typically on a Server) and the Imager Client software installed on your PC.

Related Information

This guide helps you to get started with the application. For information about the application and how to perform additional tasks, refer to the online help.

The Release Notes (if any) provide important information including last-minute changes to the documentation.

For updated product information and general information about Alliance Imager, contact your reseller.

1 An Introduction to Alliance *Imager*

This chapter discusses basic imaging concepts and describes the functions available with Alliance*Imager*.

In this Chapter

Alliance *Imager* Overview

What is Imaging ?

Other Windows Applications

Note:

Alliance *Imager* Viewer is a read-only version of Alliance*Imager* and does not permit some of the functions described in this manual.

Other functions are only available with Alliance*Imager* Professional.

Alliance *Imager* Overview

Alliance*Imager* files, stores and indexes your paperwork comprehensively and brings savings in storage space and costs. Instead of searching for a stray document, Alliance*Imager* enables you to retrieve, view, print and (optionally) edit it.

Documents may be scanned-in paper documents or documents created on your PC with various Windows application software.

Scanned (image) documents may be black & white, greyscale or colour; produced by a scanner, fax or other applications. Once documents have been scanned they are immediately accessible to everyone on your network. For high speed scanning, there is an optional Batch Scanning module.

Documents created in Microsoft Office, or other applications, may be filed with related scanned documents.

Versions

Three versions of Alliance*Imager* are available:

Alliance*Imager* – which allows the creation, storage, deletion, retrieval and processing of documents.

Alliance*Imager* Professional – which adds further options such as Optical Character Recognition & Image Enhancement.

Alliance*Imager* Viewer – which allows view-only access to previously created documents.

What is Imaging?

Imaging is the creation, modification, and processing of electronic images using computer software.

Typical Imaging operations include:

- Scanning text, photographs, or drawings and saving the results in an image file.

- Displaying images using techniques such as thumbnails, magnification, rotation, and size to fit.

- Adding annotations to images.

- Optical Character Recognition (OCR) on images, and saving the result to an editable format such as Microsoft® Word.

- “Cleanup” of images to make them easier to view.

Scanning

You can create image documents by scanning forms, memos, pictures, or other paper documents to an image file.

Alliance Imager supports TWAIN compatible scanners.

For best results, save scanned documents in TIFF format.

Annotation

You can add a variety of markups to an image by using Annotation features, and save the annotations with the image. Some types of annotations are:

- Freehand or straight-line markings

- Highlighter

- Hollow and filled rectangles

- Attach-a-note text

- Customisable rubber stamps such as “Received” or an image such as your company logo

Optical Character Recognition

Optical Character Recognition enables you to convert an image document to one of the following editable file formats:

Microsoft Word for Windows/RTF

WordPerfect

HTML

ASCII text file

The OCR tool can automatically detect the layout (single or multiple columns, text and/or pictures) and quality (laser, fax or dot matrix) of the source document. Or, you can manually set values for these parameters.

You can define text and/or picture zones on a document page, so that OCR processes them appropriately. Defining a text zone is useful if you want to process only a paragraph and not an entire page. You would define a picture zone, for example, if your company logo consisted of mixed text and graphics.

The OCR tool can be “trained” to recognise special characters or words. Training can be performed automatically, in the background, or interactively. When you enable interactive training and start OCR processing, a dialog box displays words or symbols that the program is unsure of. As you correct words, the information is saved in a training file and customised dictionary.

You can use these files the next time you process a document with similar terminology.

Note: OCR is only available with Alliance*Imager* Professional
You can define OCR zones only on TIFF documents.

Other Windows Applications

Documents created in Microsoft Office, or other Windows compatible applications may be stored in Alliance *Imager* and subsequently retrieved and viewed in exactly the same manner as image documents.

To create documents you must have the relevant application installed. Documents may be viewed on PCs that do not have the application installed providing a suitable viewer is available.

Note: The application used to create and/or view a document is that associated with the file extension under Windows. For example, if the extension **.doc** is associated by Windows with Microsoft Word then Word will be used to create and view documents. If **.doc** is associated with a different application then that application will be launched.

2 Alliance *Imager* Views

This chapter discusses the different types of views of your data available with Alliance Imager.

In this Chapter

What are Imager Views ?

Folder View

Database View

Index View

What are *Imager* Views ?

The Alliance*Imager* can organise your documents in one of three ways, by defining the database style:

Folder View - using a hierarchical cabinet, drawer and folder structure which enables the user to create and label cabinets, drawers and folders to their own requirements, ensuring that all information is quick and easy to find.

This view is suitable for many uses, and is the most flexible and most widely used.

Database View - documents may be organised by saving key fields in an index card format, creating a database with documents stored in each record.

This view is suitable for storing documents against a database record, such as storing invoices relating to a supplier.

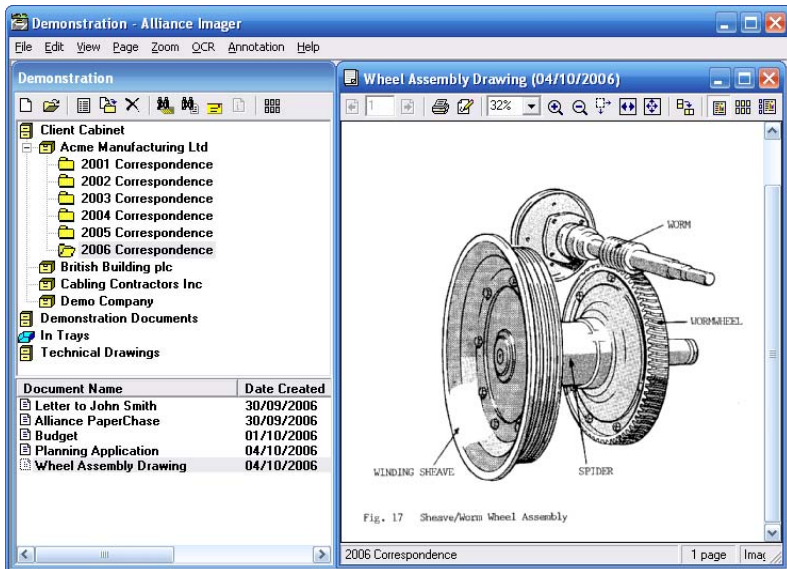
Index View - documents may be stored against a single index field.

This view is suitable where there is normally only one key field used to access a document, for example finding Medical Records by use of a Patient Number.

Note: Usually a database style is pre-determined as being of a given view type, although where relevant it is possible to switch views during operation.

Folder View

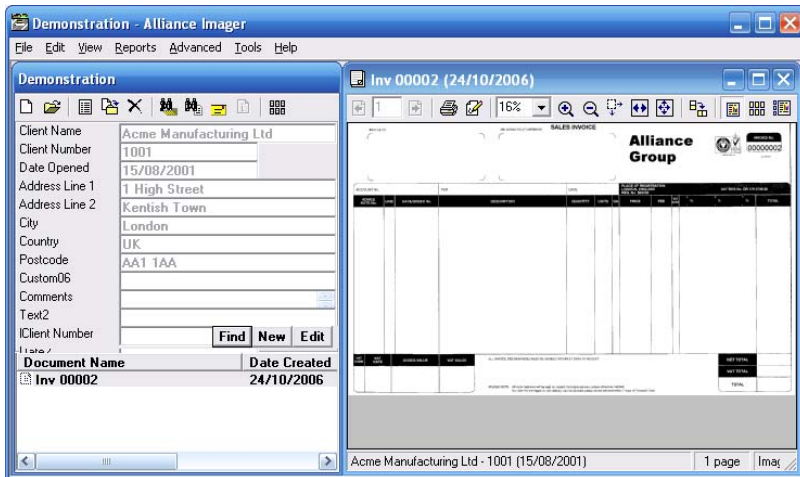
Using a hierarchical cabinet, drawer and folder structure which enables the user to create and label cabinets, drawers and folders to their own requirements, ensuring that all information is quick and easy to find.



A user would typically select the appropriate cabinet, drawer & folder (shown at the left-hand side) and then either select a document to view (from bottom left) or create a new document.

Database View

Documents may be organised by saving key fields in an index card format, creating a database with documents stored in each record.



A user would typically select the appropriate record (shown at the left-hand side), either by browsing using the 'video' buttons or by searching for a known key and then either select a document to view (from bottom left) or create a new document.

3 Operation

This chapter discusses how to create and store new documents, and how to find and display existing documents

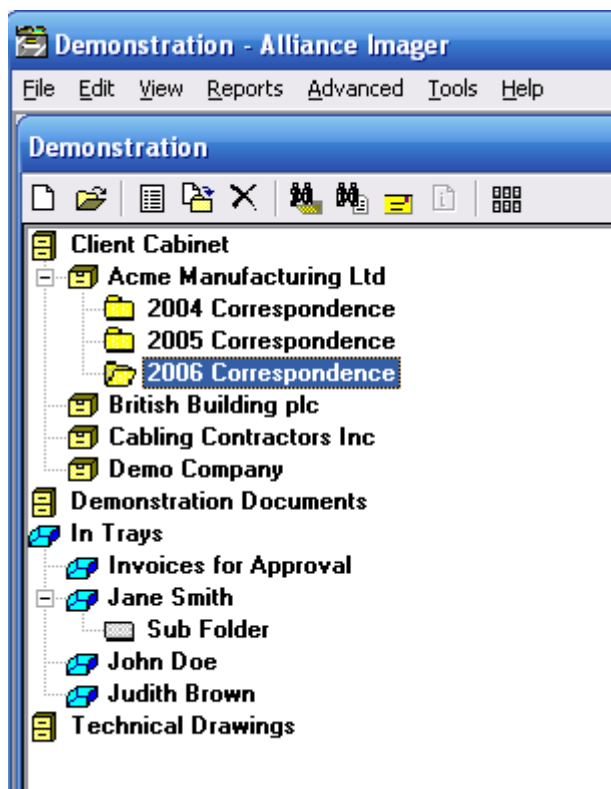
In this Chapter

- Creating New Folders
- Creating New Database Records
- Creating New Documents
- Opening Folders
- Opening a Document
- Finding a Folder or Database Record
- Finding a Document
- Other Options
- Working with Image Documents
- Working with Non-Image Documents

Operation

Creating New Folders

In the Folders view of Alliance Imager, a hierarchy of Cabinets, Drawers, Folders and sub-Folders may be defined. Documents are then stored in folders.



To create a new Cabinet, Drawer or Folder navigate through the hierarchy to where you wish to place the new entry and select the File menu. Then choose the type of entry from the menu and enter the name of the folder.



Note: Sub-Folders are also created with the New Folder option. In Trays are a special type of folder.

Note: Alliance*Imager* Viewer will not allow folders to be created or edited.

Creating New Database Records

In the Database view of *Alliance Imager*, a database of records may be maintained. Documents are then stored against each record.

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Demonstration" with a standard Windows-style toolbar. Below the toolbar is a form with various input fields. The fields are labeled on the left and contain data on the right. The data entered is as follows:

Field Label	Value
Client Name	Acme Manufacturing Ltd
Client Number	1001
Date Opened	15/08/2001
Address Line 1	1 High Street
Address Line 2	Kentish Town
City	London
Country	UK
Postcode	AA1 1AA
Custom06	
Comments	
Text2	
Ref2	
Date2	
Numeric1	
Dated:	
Client Number	

At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: "Update" and "Cancel".

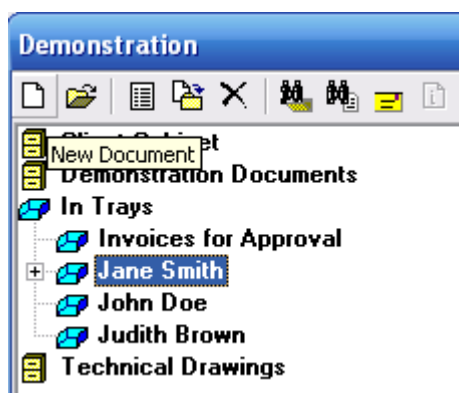
Existing records may be found by searching (see Finding a Folder or Database *below*).

Existing records may be modified by pressing the Edit button and then the Update button to save the changes.

Note: *Alliance Imager* Viewer will not allow records to be created or edited.

Creating New Documents

To create a new document navigate through the folder hierarchy (Folder View) to the folder where the new document is to be stored or select a database record (Database View) and then press the New Document icon (or select New Document from the File menu).



The New Document entry box is then displayed:

A screenshot of the 'New Document in '2006 Correspondence'' dialog box. The dialog has a title bar with a close button. It contains several fields: 'Document Type' (a dropdown menu set to 'Letter Rec'd' with a secondary 'Imaging' field), 'Document Name' (a text box), 'Date Created' (a text box with '14/11/2006'), 'Author/Addressee' (a dropdown menu), 'Created By' (a dropdown menu), 'Status' (a dropdown menu set to 'Work in Progress'), 'Comments' (a text box with a 'Go' button), and 'Special Info.' (a text box). At the bottom are buttons for 'Reply Req'd' (with a red exclamation mark icon), 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'ScanSetup' (with a checkbox).

'Document Type' is a required field and must be entered. Similarly 'Document Name' is required, though if left blank it will default to the same as the Document Type. Note that the New Document box does not

necessarily always look identical to the one shown. It can vary depending upon the Document Type selected.

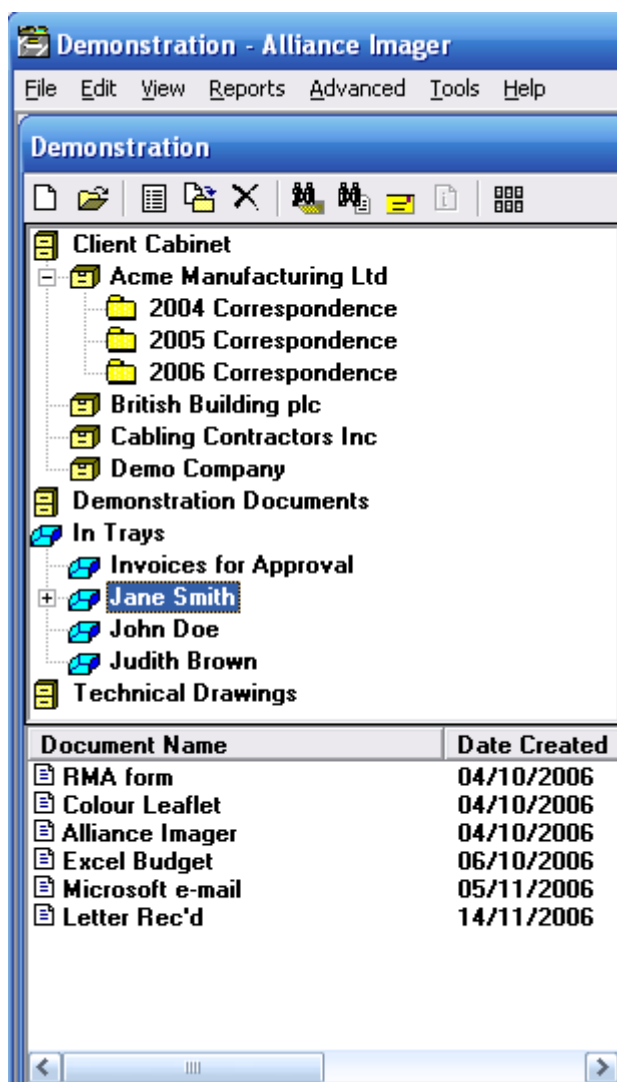
Upon pressing OK, if the document type indicates that the document is an image the scanning application will be launched, otherwise the relevant application will be launched. The Scan Setup checkbox allows the scanner settings to be changed. The box may be dragged larger to allow further fields to be entered.

The data entered in this box is known as the *Metadata* or *Document Profile*.

The action of entering this information is known as *Indexing*.

Note: If a scanner is not connected to your PC you will not be able to scan documents.

Opening Folders (Folder View)



To see a list of documents in a given folder, navigate through the Cabinet/Drawer/Folder hierarchy by double clicking. The documents in the currently selected folder are listed.

Opening a Document (Folder or Database View)

Document Name	Date Created
 RMA form	04/10/2006
 Colour Leaflet	04/10/2006
 Alliance Imager	04/10/2006
 Excel Budget	06/10/2006
 Microsoft e-mail	05/11/2006
 Letter Rec'd	14/11/2006

To open a document in either the Folder View or the Database View, select the required document by clicking on it in the document list. A single click will open the document in Preview mode, a double click will open the document for editing, using the relevant application software. For example double clicking a Word document will launch Microsoft Word (if it is installed on the PC).

Note: *Imager* Viewer will not allow documents to be edited.

Opening a Document (Index View)



To open a document in the Index View, enter the document reference and press Return (or the Open icon).

Finding a Folder or Database Record (Folder or Database View)



To find a Folder or Database Record press the Find icon (or select File/Find Folder from the menu) and a query by example screen displays

Find Folder

Search Folder Profile Find Folder Search

Folder Profile Query by Example

Client Name

Client Number

Date Opened

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City

Upon entering search parameters (such as the Name or Reference) the results of the Search are displayed.

Find Folder

Search Folder Profile Find Folder Search

Folders Found		
Folder Name	Folder Ref	
▶ Acme Manufacturing Ltd	1001	1 High Street
British Building plc	3002	
Cabling Contractors Inc	2002	
Demo Company	2001	

Double clicking any Folder or Record will open it.

Finding a Document (All Views)



To find a document press the Find Document icon (or select File/Find Document from the menu) and a query by example screen displays.

Upon entering search parameters (such as the Document Name or Type) the results of the Search are displayed.

Documents Found		
Document Name	Document Type	Date
▶ Alliance PaperChase	Letter Sent	30/09/2006
Alliance Imager	Leaflet	04/10/2006
Alliance Imager pdf	Leaflet	05/10/2006
Alliance Imager Leaflet	Leaflet	15/10/2006

Select a document

Double clicking any Document will open it.

Other Options

Edit a Document Profile



This option will display the Document Profile edit box for the currently selected document, allowing the details of the document to be modified.

Display a Document Profile

F12

Pressing Function Key 12 shows the document profile details, including Audit Trail (history) and Versioning details.

Moving a Document



This option allows a document to be moved from one folder (or database record) to another.

Deleting a Document



This option allows the currently selected document to be deleted.

Deleting a Folder or Database Record

Delete Folder This option allows the currently selected Folder or Record to be deleted, providing that it does not contain any documents.

Batch Indexing



This option is used in conjunction with Alliance *BatchScan*. Documents that have been scanned in with Alliance *BatchScan* are subsequently indexed into Imager Folders or Database Records with this option. This option allows the scanning function to be separated from the indexing function, typically allowing several users to index documents scanned in from one scanner.

Folder Keywords

A list of Keywords may be entered against each folder (or database record) for subsequent searching. These keywords may either be freely typed or selected from a Master List.

Document Keywords

A list of Keywords may be entered against each document for subsequent searching. These keywords may either be freely typed or selected from a Master List.

Custom Fields

Fields in the Document Profile (Document Edit Box) may be pre-defined relevant to the database.

Lookup Fields

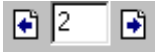
Fields in the Document Profile (Document Edit Box) may be pre-defined as 'Lookup' fields. These will allow entry (when creating or editing a document) only from a Master List .

Note: Alliance*Imager* Viewer will not allow the creation, modification, deletion or indexing of documents.

Working with Image Documents

When an image document (e.g. a scanned document) is displayed you may manipulate it in a number of ways. These options are available from the toolbar or from the menus.

Changing Pages



To change to another page of a document press the arrows or type in a page number.

Printing



To Print a document press the Print icon

Changing the size of a displayed document (Zoom)



The size of a displayed document may be increased or decreased by either typing in a required size or more usually by pressing the Zoom-in, Zoom-out, Zoom-to-Selection, Fit-to-Width or Fit-to-Page icons.

Rotating a Page



To rotate a page 90 degrees to the right press the Rotate icon. Other rotate options are available on the Page menu.

Displaying Pages and Thumbnails

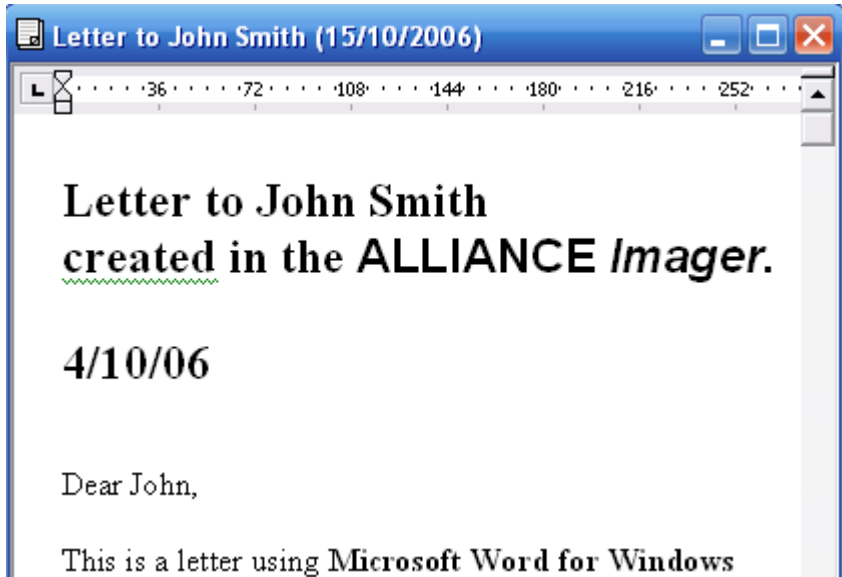


Select the Icon for Single Page, Thumbnails, Single Page + Thumbnails, or Dual page

Working with Non-Image Documents

When a non-image document (such as WP, Spreadsheet etc) is selected with a single click a pre-view of the document is displayed.

If the document is selected with a double-click the associated application program is launched and the document displayed.



Printing

To Print a document select ***Print Document***

Opening a document with its Application Program



To Open a displayed document press the Open with Application icon. The document will be opened within its associated application (if any).

Note: AllianceImager Viewer will not allow the opening of documents for editing.